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sources were drawn all the facts marshalled with such skill and explained with such acumen.

The rational approach to the study of the Master-Poet through grammar, archæology and philology was treated with never a lapse into prosiness or conventionality. But the last lecture was the important one. Following FREYTAG, the lecturer analysed with masterly skill and simplicity the evolution of a plot and the relations which the characters and incidents bear to the central idea. The weakness of SHAKESPEARE'S fourth acts was well illustrated; and a hit, a very palpable hit, recorded when the critical foil pricked the body of theatrical realism.

Those of us who consider ourselves average students of SHAKESPEARE have listened to so many clamorous voices raised in windy chorus of theorizing and moralizing, that we were startled and delighted to hear addresses in which elementary facts, and principles, were invested with the grace of novelty, and the glamour of romance. Our "soul hath her content so absolute, that not another comfort like to this succeeds in unknown fate."

ALBERT H. SMYTH.

Philadelphia.

PROFESSOR CURME'S ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG NOTES:

SIRS:—Please allow me a few lines to correct an erroneous impression which the reviewer of PROFESSOR CURME'S book seems to entertain with reference to the persons to whom the editor acknowledges his indebtedness. In no proper sense were we associates; for PROFESSOR CURME made his own selections and wrote his introduction without advice or assistance from us. Our work consisted solely, so far as I know, of reading the proofs and making a few marginal corrections and suggestions. It is due to PROFESSOR CURME, as well as to us, that our proper relations should be known, since to consider us all under the misleading caption of associates, would be to deprive him of the praise he very justly deserves for the excellence of his work, and to hold us responsible for any adverse criticism which may attach to it.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL GARNER.

Annapolis, Md.

BRIEF MENTION.

'Ueber den Ursprung der neuenglischen Schriftsprache' (Gebr. Henninger, Heilbronn), by DR. LORENZ MORSEBACH, is an important contribution to English philology. In the popular view the literary or standard English of today received its initial stamp at the hands either of CHAUCER or of WYCLIF. Several years ago PROF. TEN BRINK ('Chaucers Sprache und Verskunst') weighed the evidence of their respective claims to this singular honor, and decided that the influence of the court poet CHAUCER in determining the future destiny of the language, was at most but incidentally aided by the labors of his great theological contemporary. DR. MORSEBACH at this point takes up the problem, and while agreeing with PROF. TEN BRINK in regarding London as the cradle of the language, reduces CHAUCER'S headship to a mere factor in the reinforcement of an assured tendency, and declares: "Auch wenn Chaucer seine unsterblichen Werke nicht geschrieben hätte, so würde die Entwicklung der englischen Schriftsprache ganz denselben Weg genommen haben." This is putting the strongest stress upon the view that the centralizing life at London and at the Court supplied all the conditions necessary for the creation of a uniform standard of speech. To establish this view DR. MORSEBACH proceeds in accordance with exact philological methods. He investigates the London dialect as it has been preserved in the legal State and parliamentary records for the period of fifty years, which extend from the central point in CHAUCER'S career, 1380, onward to the year 1430, and thus discovers a language which, while in the main identical with that of the poet's works, has yet points of difference, and these differences, it is argued, hold the closer relation to modern literary English. Since most of these sources for the English of cultivated Londoners at the time of CHAUCER are not yet published, it is welcome news to be told that DR. MORSEBACH promises soon to publish a volume of them. In the meanwhile his treatise may be regarded as a careful presentation of the facts there revealed, while it also deserves a high place among the most trustworthy contributions both to the history of the language in general, and to the special province of Chaucerian English.

It is seldom that a book has appeared at a

more fitting time than MACKAY's 'Dictionary of Lowland Scotch' (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), equally seldom has a book proved a more complete failure. A handy and trustworthy glossary for the Scottish poets is one of the most evident needs of the present, but unfortunately the first "to take occasion by the hand" has been one whose fitness for the task is simply absolute in its inadequacy. MR. MACKAY is not only no scholarly English philologist, he is not even a fair Autolykus,— "a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles;" but what is worse, he has a mania, and his book is a bundle of crotchets. In some way MR. MACKAY has survived the progress in linguistic science made by his own generation, without betraying the slightest impulse to move along with the current,—a remarkable, though not unexampled, exemplification of self-centred poise. To say that an etymological dictionary of Scottish has been prepared by one who is totally innocent of knowing anything,—even the titles—of SKEAT's 'Etym. Dictionary,' and of the 'Oxford Dictionary,'—not to mention DR. MURRAY's indispensable monograph—is a sufficient comment on this unlawful performance. MR. MACKAY has not mastered the simple problem of the historic relation of Scottish to English, nor of English to its cognates. The confusion, contradictions and errors resulting from this fault could hardly be described. A few examples of words that offer no difficulties will illustrate MR. MACKAY's method as a philologist: "*Anent*, MR. STORMONTH derives it from the Anglo-Saxon *ongean* and the Swedish *on gent*, opposite; but the etymology seems doubtful." *Byspel*, the word is from the Teutonic *beispiel*, an example; literally a *by-play*." "*Rede*, advice, counsel. It is either from the Flemish and Dutch *raed*, counsel; the German *reden* to speak; or the Gaelic *radh*, *raidh* or *raite*, a saying, an aphorism." "*Sark*, a shirt. Attempts have been made to trace it from the Swedish, the Icelandic, the Anglo-Saxon and the Greek, but without success."

But MR. MACKAY is not open to serious criticism. He is a Kelto-maniac, and should excite pity. His point of view is set forth in the Introduction, where the Celtic origin of "Angael or English," and the statement that

the epithet "Anglo-Saxons" was first devised in the second half of the eighteenth century, serve to deepen the pathos of the key-note to the entire work: "Philology, even in the advanced period in which we now live, is, at best, but a blind and groping science. It has made little real progress since the invention of printing."

PROF. JULIUS ZUPITZA (Berlin) has recently published the third edition of his 'Cynewulf's Elene,' and introduced changes that mark important variations from the preceding two editions. The most prominent feature of what is new, is the insertion, at the foot of the pages, of the Latin text of the legend from the 'Acta Sanctorum.' This device will greatly facilitate the better study of the poet's workmanship. In keeping with his painstaking accuracy, the editor has availed himself of WÜLKER's new edition, and of NAPIER's recent collocation of the manuscript (privately communicated, cf. *Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum*, xxxiii, 67) for the thorough revision of the text. The third chief variety of changes is due to a careful consideration of SIEVERS' brilliant studies on Anglo-Saxon versification. SIEVERS' results as to vowel-quantity are only in a few instances found to be not quite unquestionable. The adoption of SIEVERS' theory has moreover led to an orthographic change that will at once arrest the eye, namely, the substitution of *i* for *j* in the suffix of weak verbs of the second class. In accordance with *Beiträge* x, 225, ZUPITZA now writes *ricsian*, 434; *prōwian*, 769; *gearwian*, 1000; *staðelien*, 427 (for former *ricsjan prōwjan, gearwjan, staðeljen*). *Wealdend* (l. 789) of the former editions has been made to yield to the metrically possible *weard*; *lêfe* (l. 1214) now holds the place of the previous *lefe* (*Beiträge* x, 504), and *fædere* (for *fæder*) satisfies the measure of line 454. This new edition puts the student of Anglo-Saxon under fresh obligations to its able editor.

The object of 'Deutschland und die Deutschen' by DR. H. KOSTYÁK and PROF. A. ADER (New York; The Modern Language Publishing Company, 1888. 12mo, pp. 195) is to furnish students with reading material descriptive of Germany and the Germans.

The idea is a good one, and the book contains in condensed form a large amount of information on German history and the manners and customs of the people. The articles are evidently not excerpts from encyclopædias, year-books, etc., but are written by the editors themselves. While this fact gives the book a certain uniformity of style and diction, it leaves room, at the same time, for suspicions as to the correctness of many statements, especially in the section on Universities: such, for instance, as that every student strives to win the degree of Ph. D. (p. 119); that Berlin is by no means looked upon as the first German University (p. 116); that the *Mensur* is called a "Quell;" that Strassburg is the least frequented university in Germany (p. 117)—the fact being that, in 1883-4, ten universities had fewer students than Strassburg, and now at least six have fewer. The statement that Göttingen has less than fifty thousand inhabitants (p. 116), reminds one of HEINE's famous description of the good little city (see BUCHHEIM's 'Heine's Prosa' (p. 8). These inaccuracies should be corrected. We question the grammar of "mit weniger als 50,000 Einwohner" and the propriety of "Præcisheit."

In a paper read by Professor H. C. G. BRANDT of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., at the twenty-sixth annual convocation of the University of New York, held at Albany, July, 1888, he propounds and answers two questions: (1) Why French and German should be studied before going to college; (2) How these languages can find a place among the studies preparatory for college. With the natural sciences and philosophy, the modern languages have been moving backward from the end of the course toward the beginning, and one of them is now required for entrance, the other taught during Freshman year, by institutions of the highest grade. They ought both to be required for entrance, (1) because they are learned more readily at an early age (and especially is this the case with their pronunciation); (2) because the quality of the work done in them in college should be raised; (3) on account of their usefulness in reference to other studies; (4) on account of the mental discipline which they afford. Institutions that now require only English

studies ought at least to demand the elements of French and German, since no course, whether scientific, technical or historical, should be without the training afforded by the study of a foreign language. At so advanced an age as eighteen years or more, it is too late to begin the learning of any language. In the "compensation system" followed by the Johns Hopkins University, by Harvard and, to a less extent, by Yale, room, it is urged, can be found to meet the exigencies of the situation. Thus, the extra studies may be arranged in three groups: 1. the English group, in the wider sense of that term: the mother-tongue, history and geography; 2. the foreign language group, including Greek, Latin, French and German; 3. the mathematical and scientific group. Under the second and third groups as thus constituted, the amount required may be a maximum or a minimum, while in the first (the English group) all studies are required, leaving a choice between American and English history, on the one side, and Greek and Roman history, on the other. The minimum in one science and in Algebra, Geometry, Greek or Latin, French or German, and the maximum in any two given studies, are to be absolutely required, but the maximum, or advanced standing, in a third group must be offered in case the minimum of Greek, or French or German, be not offered. The maximum of an additional study can be substituted for the minimum of one of the languages. This plan, then, does not require Greek for the degree of A. B., and it necessitates the teaching of elementary French and German until, among the absolute requirements, the "or" between "French" and "German" shall give place to "and." That day, let us hope, is not far distant.

The 'Choix d'Extraits de Daudet' edited by PROF. W. PRICE and announced in the December number of the MOD. LANG. NOTES, proves to be an enlargement of the 'Choix de Contes de Daudet' by the same editor. He has added to the original text two selections from the 'Lettres de mon Moulin,' thus increasing by one half the amount contained in the previous pamphlet. (Boston: Charles H. Kilborn. 61 pp., 15 cents).

"The Language of Palæolithic Man," by DR. DANIEL G. BRINTON, editor of the important *Library of Aboriginal American Literature*, is a paper of sixteen octavo pages, read before the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY on October 5, 1888. The author dismisses the *homo alalus* as a scientific romance, and holds, therefore, to "the physiological possibility that palæolithic man possessed a language," which, however, was much more rudimentary than anything known to us. "It had no grammatical form; so fluctuating were its phonetics and so much depended on gesture, tone, and stress, that its words could not have been reduced to writing, nor arranged in alphabetic sequence; . . . it possessed no prepositions nor conjunctions, no numerals, no pronouns of any kind, no forms to express singular or plural, male or female, past or present. . . . The concept of time came much later than that of space, and for a long while was absent." Such are a few of the interesting conclusions reached by the eminent archæologist, who discusses in the course of his thesis many knotty questions touching the birth-period of human speech. For example, in relation to the genesis of certain grammar categories, he thinks that there is some evidence in behalf of the theory of a "fixed relation between sound and sense:" the *n*-sound expresses the notion of "myselfness" (the *ego*) in a wide range of languages, while the *k*-sound indicates, or is associated with, the idea of "other-ness," that is, demonstrative in its general signification. The investigation is suggestive, and in it the author keeps well off the danger-line of a purely speculative treatment of his subject.

Under the direction of PROF. VENTURA of Boston an Italian class in Bangor, Maine, has prepared a translation of the 'Testa' of PAOLO MANTEGAZZA (Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.). This book, which was written for boys, reminds one strongly of the now antiquated Rollo stories, and like them gives much information in regard to natural history, while it is not at all inferior to them in moral admonitions and exhortations to physical health and mental progress. That it answers a real want in Italy is evident from the many editions through which it has passed. In America it can serve a most useful purpose in acquainting the coming

generation with the better spirit of that nation to which, as a vehicle of culture, modern civilisation is most indebted, and which is about to take, in the social and political world as well as in the world of science, the place that has long awaited it. The translation is unusually smooth and easy; at times it might have been made more English by the use of the indefinite article where it is omitted in Italian. The simplicity of thought gives a quaintness to the style that is an additional attraction. The binding is tasty and neat and recommends the contents from the outset.

MR. ALFRED POLLARD has accomplished a piece of good work by his tasteful and scholarly edition of SIDNEY'S 'Astrophel and Stella' (London: David Stott). Unfortunately the edition is a limited one, yet 250 copies for America have been placed in the hands of A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. The text reproduces the folio of 1598, and the notes give variations in the earlier editions. By a singular coincidence, a German scholar, EWALD FLÜGEL, has now in press an edition of these sonnets in which we may expect a text constructed upon a somewhat different plan (see *Anglia*, xi, 329). POLLARD'S Introduction is of special value for the announcement of a new and well-considered theory of arrangement and interpretation; this theory FLÜGEL pronounces to be "höchst beachtenswert;"—MR. POLLARD could hardly ask more of one who is himself now busied with the same problem. The portrait of SIDNEY, reproduced for this work from the famous funeral-engraving, adds a special charm to MR. POLLARD'S dainty volume.

A deprint (47 pp.) from the *Magazine of Western History* has reached us, bearing the title: "Early Periodical Literature of the Ohio Valley," by W. H. VENABLE. Characteristic mention is here made of no less than fifty-seven journals covering the period between the years 1819-1860, and still the list is termed "partial" only. Beginning with *The Western Review and Miscellaneous Magazine* (1819), the writer notes the trend of literary magazine work in the Ohio valley in its successive stages of development down to *The Dial* (1860), a monthly publication edited by the indefatigable and radical reformer, MONCURE D. CONWAY. It was in this magazine that HOWELLS saw the first printed notice of his literary labors, a review of the "Poems of Two Friends" published in the March (1860) number.

We are glad to call attention again (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, iii, 263) to the establishment of a State Section of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION. A number of professors of Modern Languages from Ohio Colleges in attendance at the Cincinnati Convention of the MOD. LANG. ASSOCIATION, met Dec. 29th for the purpose of forming a Mod. Lang. Section for Ohio, which is to meet in connection with the College Association at Columbus, O. A Committee consisting of PROF. J. M. HART, University of Cincinnati; DR. HUGO SCHILLING, Wittenberg College; PROF. ARTHUR H. PALMER, Adelbert College; DR. CHAS. HARRIS, Oberlin College; PROF. WM. W. DAVIES, Ohio Wesleyan University; PROF. ERNST A. EGGERS, Ohio State University, was appointed to make arrangements for the first meeting of the section, to be held Dec. 1889, at Columbus. This is the second Section of the kind that has been formed within the past few months, and it is to be hoped that the teachers of every State may be encouraged to establish soon like organizations in connection with their State associations. The influence for good of such organized effort can hardly be estimated; by looking after the special educational needs of each State, these branches will be able to stimulate and foster a local interest in modern language work that would be quite impossible for the general association.

The Wellesley College *Courant* for October 12, 1888, announces a course of "Lectures on Mediæval Literature." Ten of these, allotted to Romance Languages, were to be delivered on alternate Saturdays, PROFESSOR ROSALIE SÉE beginning the series, on October 13th, with "The Birth and Growth of the Neo-Latin Languages in Northern and Southern France. The two following lectures: "The Romance of Flamenca" and "The Song of the Crusade against the Albigenses" were also given by PROF. SÉE: while the five succeeding ones are put down to PROFESSOR ADOLPHE COHN, of Harvard University.

Readers of the *Open Court* are familiar with MAX MÜLLER'S "Three Introductory Lectures on the Science of Thought," delivered at the Royal Institution in London, and first published in the organ just mentioned for June, July,

and August, 1887. These lectures have been republished in a neat little volume of vi, 95 pages by the Open Court Publishing Company (Chicago, 69 La Salle St. Price, 75 cts) and may well serve as a succinct résumé of the theories discussed in the author's elaborate work on 'The Science of Thought.' The book contains three essays: 1. The Simplicity of Language; 2. The Identity of Thought and Language; 3. The Simplicity of Thought. These are followed by an appendix of twenty-eight pages presenting various phases of discussion as to the main theory of the work, in the shape of a correspondence between the author and the DUKE OF ARGYLL, Messrs. GEORGE J. ROMANES, FRANCIS GALTON, HYDE CLARKE and others.—The two fundamental doctrines that constitute the pivotal point about which the whole thesis revolves are, the absolute identity of thought and language, and the origin of linguistic roots in the *clamor concomitans*, "social sounds," of our own repeated acts. As a summary of the first proposition, the author remarks: "All I maintain is that thought cannot exist without signs and that our most important signs are words," and, after declaring that all philosophy has to deal primarily with "thought-words" or "word-thoughts" (?), the writer sets about a review of philosophic opinion on this abstruse subject from the earlier scholastics down to the present day. He finds that the scholastic philosophers rarely leave us in doubt as to their views concerning the relation of thought and language, while modern philosophers either evade the question altogether, or treat it in an ambiguous way (p. 51). The author proposes, then, to build up a new system of philosophy, of which the corner-stone shall be this heterodox dogma of identity of language and reason. As to the second tenet of his linguistic faith, the writer maintains that "the results of our acts become the first objects of our own conceptual thought, and with conceptual thought language, which is nothing if not conceptual, begins." Accordingly, in agreement with PROFESSOR NOIRÉ, he goes on to assert that before we get at a conceptual word, the mind has to pass through five stages: "1. Consciousness of our own repeated acts; 2. *Clamor concomitans* of these acts;

3. Consciousness of that *clamor* as concomitant of the act; 4. Repetition of that *clamor* to recall the act; 5. *Clamor* (root) defined by prefixes, suffixes, etc., to recall the act as localized in its results, its instruments, its agents, etc."—The little work is written in that clear and delightful style which so inherently characterizes the scientific productions of this eminent scholar, and must be of peculiar interest to every student of language.

The indefatigable worker, PROFESSOR L. CLÉDAT of the Faculté des lettres de Lyon, has added another volume to the list of his elementary works for the study of French. With in the past four years, his 'Grammaire élémentaire de la vieille langue française' (Paris: Garnier Frères), 'Morceaux choisis des auteurs français du moyen âge' 'La Chanson de Roland,' 'Petit Glossaire du vieux français,' 'Extraits de la chronique de Joinville,' have followed one another in rapid succession; and now comes the 'Nouvelle Grammaire historique du français' (in 18-Jésus, pp. 297) which, as the author tells us, "part . . . de la langue moderne pour remonter jusqu'aux origines. Je néglige les particularités de l'ancienne langue qui ont disparu sans laisser de traces . . . mais j'insiste sur l'explication historique de toutes les règles de la grammaire moderne."

In vol. ii, p. 94 of this journal, notice was given of the first part of an important and interesting work entitled: 'Franklin in France, etc.' The second part (a portly octavo volume of 480 pages) including "The Treaty of Peace and Franklin's Life till his Return," now lies before us, and deserves not a whit less praise than its predecessor. This volume is almost entirely composed of letters, selected from hitherto unpublished documents, which bear particularly on "the closing years of Franklin's residence in France." His personal relations with the DUC DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD, LAFAYETTE, MIRABEAU, MALESHERBES, VERGENNES and a host of other luminaries of French history, present an exceedingly vivid picture of Franklin's diplomatic methods and social standing in Paris, and throw light upon the sudden development of sympathy for America, that must be of interest to the student both of

French literature and French politics. The work is provided with a rare portrait-illustration of Franklin in his old age, with vignettes of such men as ROBERT MORRIS, LORD SHELburne, COUNT CAGLIOSTRO, CARDINAL DE ROHAN and of some of those mentioned above. It contains also a full index covering both volumes. (Boston: Roberts Brothers; price \$3.)

A useful little work of thirty-five octavo pages (Hamburg, Otto Meissner. Price, 1 mark) has reached us under the title: *Die Phonetik im französischen und englischen Klassenunterricht*, von DR. A. RAMBEAU, Professor am Wilhelm-Gymnasium in Hamburg. On the cover are noted: *Lauttafeln für den französischen und englischen Klassenunterricht* (Preis für alle vier Tafeln auf Papier, M. 4.), to which this text is intended by the author as a *Begleitschrift*. The French part covers twenty pages and is by far the best presentation of the subject of phonetics that we have seen for elementary instruction. It is clear, practical, without unnecessary details and easily used,—the result of six years' constant experience of an enthusiastic and successful teacher: were these phonetic charts placed in the hands of every French instructor in our country, the good results to be attained in a short time could hardly be estimated: an approximately correct pronunciation would soon be the chief pleasure of the learner.

PERSONAL.

DR. W. J. ALEXANDER has recently been appointed to the chair of English at the University of Toronto. This professorship is a new foundation; it is well endowed and one of the most important educational positions in Canada. Toronto is fortunate in having secured a scholar whose preparation has been so thorough and whose professional career has been so successful. DR. ALEXANDER is a Canadian and received his early training at the Hamilton Collegiate Institute. In 1875 he matriculated at the University of Toronto, winning two scholarships. In the following year he won the Gilchrist scholarship for Canada ranking fourth among six hundred and fifty-two